



FORUM
INTERNATIONAL

Désertif'actions

La société civile se mobilise - Montpellier / 10-13 JUIN 2015

MONTPELLIER DECLARATION ON LAND IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Desertif'actions - International Forum of civil society

Preamble

More than 300 participants from civil society, from local authorities, scientists, high-level government officials and donors, as well as heads of international and multilateral organizations, coming from 57 countries have met in Montpellier in the framework of the international forum of civil society DESERTIF' ACTIONS 2015 from 10 to 13th of June 2015. The full process of D'a15 involved directly around 7000 people.

National preparatory meetings were spontaneously held in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo, Ivory Coast, India, Iran, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Chad, Tunisia as well as a regional meeting in Middle East. An e-forum on Internet was attended by 380 people from 46 countries. At all these meetings and during the conference itself in Montpellier, the D'a15 participants highlighted the undeniable link between land degradation, the global environment and the development, with the issues of stability and security at the international level. In the context of current and future impacts of global warming, the concern of land in the climate change negotiations emerged as to be highly prioritized.

The participants of D'a15 take note of, deplore and denounce

- The continued production and consumption patterns around the world that continue unabated despite scientific evidence that they damage land and terrestrial ecosystems and cause the degradation of 60% of the services rendered by ecosystems, including water filtration, destroy the habitats of biodiversity, and reduce the diversity of species at a hitherto unknown pace;
- The disappearance of 75% of genetic diversity of crops since the beginning of the twentieth century, and the moderate to severe degradation of 52% of farmland all over the globe and of oasis ecosystems, the decline of soil fertility and the poisoning of surface water and underground water resources;
- The competition exerted on the land, particularly farmland, by international players - more than 37 million hectares of land have already been acquired - often affecting the rights of farmers and local users and global food security in an environment where the availability of arable land per person has declined from 0.45 hectares to 0.20 ha between 1961 and 2011,
- The irresponsible and persistent undervaluation of land and agriculture in the negotiations on climate change, although agriculture, deforestation and land use change are responsible for 30% of GHG emissions and considering that land management change could reduce their impact and simultaneously store 30% of the excess carbon in the atmosphere.



The participants of D'a15 alert the international community to

- The necessity of having land in sufficient quantity and quality to meet the need to feed an estimated population of 9 billion people by 2050 and the requirement to increase agricultural production by about 70% worldwide and even 100% in developing countries; while land degradation could reduce food production by 12% in the next 25 years, and up to 50% in some areas with the additional effect of climate change;
- The future impact of warming temperatures and extreme weather events on land, especially in many developing countries subject to drought and aridity, in which 1.5 billion people already suffer from land degradation, including 65% of the African population;
- The mutual impact of global warming on land and conversely the impact of land degradation on climate change, resulting in a negative spiral of effects on ecosystem services and on the livelihoods of populations that depend on them;
- The continuance of production patterns (industrial agriculture, mining, poor water management, etc.) that destroy the productive potential of land and generate profit only for a small, wealthy elite or wealthy people while increasing cumulative damage;
- On the major obstacle exerted by land degradation on the development of a significant portion of the world population that depends on agriculture for their food security and the improvement of their living conditions,

D'a15 participants remind of and insist on

- The collective and long term effects of land degradation on food insecurity and global security and their roots, with over 60 foodborne riots that occurred in over 30 countries worldwide in 2008,
- The relevance of natural resources, including land, because they are the root causes of 40% of conflicts in the past 60 years, and their direct connection with the increased migration flows, estimated at 200 to 350 million climate refugees by 2050, that generate instability in the countries of origin and those of the arrival;
- The false solutions promoted by short-term financial interests of some elites;
- The tiny cost of restoring land of degraded ecosystems, estimated as being between 33 and 227 euros per hectare and the potential created to store 30% of annual CO2 emissions from fossil fuels in soils.

Therefore the participants of D'a15 agree and conclude that

- It is of general interest and urgent to implement public policies that integrate agro-ecology, agro-pastoralism and that protect and encourage family farming by guaranteeing the right to food defined by the United Nations, in particular, by engaging with urgency in the rehabilitation of 500 million hectares of available degraded land;
- To stimulate sustainable land management, land rehabilitation and prevention of land conflicts, good governance of land must be in place. To ensure good governance, the



"Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security" and "Principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems" developed by the UN Committee on World Food Security should be the basis for governments, investors, donors, the private sector and civil society.

- New concepts such as Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Land Degradation Neutrality, if used by countries, international organizations or private sector, must first be at the service of local communities and prevent land grabbing, the use of GMOs or the intensive use of chemicals; this fundamental orientation should be part of the objectives and mode of operation of any further developments of the mentioned concepts
- Non-governmental organizations and in general civil society organizations, including producer organizations and local authorities, should be recognized as stakeholders in decision-making at local and national level, not just at the stage of implementation of the decisions and action plans.
- To promote effective synergy between the three Rio Conventions, more operational cooperation between stakeholders at all levels must be ensured; especially at national level through the establishment of national committees for integrated implementation.
- Any future agreement adopted by the COP 21 on climate change must include funding for family farming and community-based adaptation while avoiding providing resources for false solutions;
- Participants have stated that any future financing should follow rules previously agreed with civil society and have called for greater consideration of the recommendations of Economic and Social Councils where they exist.

Finally, participants at D'a15 also agreed to commitments and actions to

- Present the demands of D'a15 at country level;
- Make known and make heard the work of D'a15 In the forthcoming meetings of the UNCCD (COP 12 in Ankara) and UNFCCC (COP 21 in Paris);
- Disseminate the results of D'a15 at all levels.

Montpellier (France), June 12, 2015

About organizing D'a15 :

On the initiative of the French association CARI and its partners, Desertif'actions 2015 was held in the framework of the events on combating climate change in preparation of the UNFCCC COP21 and declared as a Great National Cause in France in 2015. D'a15 It has been labeled COP21 by France and Year for Development by the European Union. Participants contributed to three days of workshops and plenary, public screenings with debates, in a day of dialogue with the local population at the Montpellier city center with the contribution of artists, poets, cartoonists, actors of local development and a citizens 'march' followed by a public concert. www.desertif-actions.fr





D'a15 is organized by






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